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PROGRAMME AND BUDGET

(d) REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE TRUST FUND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES IN 1999

Note by the Executive Secretary

Addendum

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* ICCD/COP(4)/1.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Performance Report provides additional information on the activities supported by supplementary funds and is intended to be read in conjunction with the review of implementation of the Convention (ICCD/COP(4)/4). A brief description is given of the events or activities facilitated by the secretariat and an assessment made of the results achieved. This information is accompanied by a statement of expenditures. This document is organized in accordance with the main programmes, as follows:

A. Executive direction and management
B. Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice (COPSUBLA)
C. Facilitation of implementation and coordination
D. External relations and public information

2. Facilitation activities are considered by regions: African region; Asian region; Latin America and the Caribbean region; and, Northern Mediterranean region and other countries.

3. Each regional chapter includes activities at the national, subregional and regional level as well as interregional and global activities. It should be noted that activities supported by the secretariat were often undertaken with support from and in coordination with other actors in order to achieve the desired results.

II. PERFORMANCE OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS

4. Information on the status of supplementary funds and analysis of expenditure by programmes are given in tables 1 and 2 respectively, followed by detailed performance reports by programme.

Table 1. Status of Supplementary Trust Fund as of 31 December 1999
(United States dollars)

Income	**Amount**
Balance brought forward from 1998	1 096 020
Interest savings and prior years adjustments	486 638
Contributions received in 1999	3 761 348
Interest earned in 1999	39 874
Total income 1999	**5 383 880**
Total actual 1999 expenditures	2 839 423
BALANCE*	**2 544 457**

*Includes US$ 2 100 000, which has been committed for 2000 or thereafter.

Table 2. Utilization of the supplementary funds by programme

Programme	Supplementary Fund
Policy-making organs	0
Executive direction and management	56 082
Substantive Support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice	402 243
Facilitation of implementation and coordination	1 726 144
External relations and public information	367 715
Administration and finance	0
Global Mechanism	0
Subtotal	**2 552 184**
Programme support costs*	287 239
Total	**2 839 423**
Working capital reserve	382 828
Grand total	**3 222 251**

*In accordance with the United Nations guidelines (ST/SGB/188, paragraph 47), a 13 per cent programme support factor has been applied to expenditures on all the trust funds except where exemptions have been authorized by the Controller. The amount has been calculated on the basis of the actual expenditures incurred and debited as a charge to this account and credited to the United Nations.

A. Executive direction and management

Object of expenditure	US$
• Assistance for temporary supporting staff	56 082
Executive direction and management total	**56 082**

B. Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice

1. Traditional knowledge

An ad hoc panel meeting on traditional knowledge was held in Matera, Italy, in July 1999. Three background papers were prepared with the assistance of consultants.

The Meeting acknowledged that local and traditional knowledge is dynamic and requires support from all relevant stakeholders to encourage the process of innovation and diffusion of information on the most important and applied indigenous techniques. The Panel also made the following recommendations:

- To develop action-oriented research in this field;
- To facilitate a compilation of information and disseminate it;
- To set up a monitoring and backstopping system so as to ensure a proper dialogue between the different actors;
- To include the direct experience of farmers in these initiatives.

	US$
The Conference of the Parties endorsed the panel's recommendations and decided to reappoint the ad hoc panel with new terms of reference.	
• Consultants and experts	28 280
Traditional knowledge total	**28 280**

2. Early warning systems

A meeting on Early Warning Systems on desertification was organized in Niamey, Niger, in October 1999 in collaboration with the Agrhymet Center. Some 40 experts from specialized institutions, programmes and international organizations, such as FAO, UNEP, WFP, ACMAD participated in the meeting. The objective was to provide better knowledge of the interaction between food security and desertification, and to support the integration of desertification in the existing early warning systems.

• Travel of participants	41 720
• Travel of staff	7 080
• Grants to CeSIA	41 000
• Grant to AGRHYNET, Niger	7 500

The participants recommended pursuing the consultative process on this issue and speeding up the implementation of early warning systems on desertification. A number of major topics for further elaboration were listed.

The recommendations were endorsed by COP 3, which decided to appoint an ad hoc panel to further elaborate and review emerging issues related to early warning systems.

Early warning systems total	**97 300**

3. Survey and evaluation of existing networks

The survey and evaluation of existing networks institutions agencies and bodies was undertaken by a consortium of 15 institutions coordinated by UNEP. The output of the survey is a database of more than 1,000 entries which contain the basic information on the institutions that responded to the invitation sent by the consortium.

The report of phase one of the survey was submitted by UNEP to the third session of the COP and it is contained in ICCD/COP(3)/CST/4.

• Grant to UNEP	175 000

The COP took note of the interim report on phase one and requested UNEP to submit an update to the above-mentioned report based on the discussions of the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) at its third session and written submissions by Parties, and supported the realization of a second phase that will focus on the southern African subregion.

Survey and evaluation of existing networks total	**175 000**

4. Desertification information systems for planning needs in the Mediterranean region	**US$**
An interregional workshop on Desertification Information Systems for Planning Needs in the Mediterranean was held in Marrakech, Morocco, November 1998.	
The participants agreed on the need to enhance the exchange of information on desertification between the affected countries and recommended the creation of an operational information system for planning needs on desertification that could be useful for all partners in the Mediterranean region.	
• Grant to CeSIA	24 000
A consultative process on the Desertification Information System for Mediterranean (DISMED) was initiated in order to launch the implementation of the interregional initiative among the Annex IV and northern African countries. It will reinforce the capacity of Mediterranean countries to effectively programme measures and policies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.	
• Consultancy and travel of staff	8 924
Desertification information systems for planning needs in the Mediterranean region total	**32 924**
5. Round Table of Parliamentarians	
A two-day meeting of Members of Parliaments was convened in November 1999. The meeting was attended by 39 parliamentarians from 28 countries. The meeting adopted a declaration aimed at furthering the implementation of the Convention.	
• Travel of participants	69 739
Round Table of Parliamentarians total	**6[illegible]**
Substantive support to the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies and legal advice total	**402 243**

C. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the African region

1. Facilitation of implementation at the national level

1.1. National reports

Pursuant to decision 11/COP.1, the Conference of the Parties had to examine, at its third session (held in 1999), reports of affected African country Parties. This was the first time that country Parties had elaborated their national reports.

National reporting process was facilitated by the elaboration of a help guide. UNITAR provided its expertise in the formulation of the guide that was finalized in a meeting in Geneva in January 1999 attended by representatives from relevant subregional organizations and other selected partners.

• UNITAR consultancy	41 000

	US$
• Travel of representatives of the subregional organizations to preparatory meeting	21 788

The Help Guide (ICCD/COP(3)/INF.3) contributed substantively to the improved quality of the national reports submitted to the third Conference of the Parties. All except one country followed the given format, which facilitated the elaboration of the synthesis. The Help Guide has been reviewed and was subsequently used by affected countries of other regions that have to submit their reports to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session.

Most of the assistance provided for national reporting was channelled through subregional institutions, which used the funding for financial and technical support to countries in the subregion. In all subregions briefing workshops were organized.

• Grant to Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS)	105 000
• Grant to Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)	56 100
• Grant to Southern African Development Community (SADC)	117 700
• Grant to Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)	39 500
• Travel of staff	8 443

Countries that were not members of any of the above-mentioned subregional organizations were assisted, upon request, by the secretariat.

• Financial assistance to Sao Tome and Principe, and Rwanda	6 500
• Technical assistance to Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe	7 189
As requested by some countries, consultants were called upon to provide technical advice for national reporting	23 151

With the financial and technical assistance provided, 39 out of 52 affected African country Parties submitted their report in due time for the COP. After the deadline, three additional reports were received. The subregional institutions played a crucial role through their direct support to the member countries. The elaboration of the national report, following the Help Guide and involving various actors, contributed to a greater national and public awareness of the problems related to desertification, and enhanced cooperation among actors at the national level. At the international level, the presentation of the reports at the third Conference of the Parties also raised the awareness of development partners and provided them with additional information.

1.2. Awareness-raising

National reporting contributed to awareness-raising and strengthened the exchange of information, cooperation and participation between the various actors. National focal points were assisted in the organization of national awareness-raising seminars in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria. In Nigeria, the seminar was also used for the formulation of a national action programme.

	US$
• Grant to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	8 000
• Grant to Nigeria	15 000

One of the primary priority activities in Africa has been to create awareness among the various actors and stakeholders. All country parties have held awareness seminars/workshops with various target groups, including groups of women, youth, parliamentarians and key government officials. One of the key outputs of the awareness-raising campaigns has been the high level of ratifications: all African countries are now Parties to the Convention.

1.3. National Action Programmes

Technical assistance was provided to Burkina Faso and Chad for the preparation of their National Action Programmes (NAPs).

• Travel of technical advisers	6 134

In the case of Burkina Faso, the National Action Programme has been adopted and implementation has started. Chad has validated its National Action Programme during a national forum and is in the process of formal adoption by the Government.

National level total	**455 665**

2. Facilitation of implementation at the subregional level

The Maghreb Subregional Action Programme was adopted at a meeting held in September 1999 in Algiers, Algeria, attended by national focal points, NGOs, CBO representatives from UMA member countries, and representatives from the scientific community, regional and international organizations and bilateral partners. The costs were:

• Grant to UMA covered the travel of participants, preparation of documents and logistics for the meeting	50 000
• Travel of staff	4 417

A strategy to launch the implementation of the western African Subregional Action Programme was developed at a meeting held in March 1999 in Lome, Togo. This was followed by a meeting of one of the eight thematic groups on Integrated Management of Water Resources in October 1999, aiming at further development of a work programme in this thematic area.

• Grant to CILSS	30 000

Support was provided for the development of a strategy for the finalization of the Subregional Action Programme of the eastern African subregion through IGAD.

• Technical support to IGAD	16 000

SADC was assisted in order to strengthen institutional and technological capacity for further development and implementation of the SRAP in the southern African subregion.

• Technical support to SADC	44 000

	US$
Eight transboundary pilot projects have been formulated in order to enhance the management of shared natural resources at the subregional level and to create conditions conducive to local integrated management. These projects have involved several Maghrebian and Sahelian countries including Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia, and have been implemented by local communities and their organizations.	
• Pilot project on dune stabilization and protection against sand encroachment in the border areas of Algeria and Tunisia (Tozeur - Eloued)	16 720
• Pilot project on management of shared water resources in local border areas of Burkina Faso and Mali (Le Beli)	139 056
• Pilot project on the promotion of small-scale agriculture and capacity-strengthening strategies in the field of food security for the local communities living in Tin-Zaouaten between Algeria and Mali	40 000
• Pilot project on small-scale irrigation and the rehabilitation of damaged land in the locality of Tamchekett, Mauritania	50 000
• Consultant to assist in the formulation of projects	2 784
• Travel of staff	17 734
UNESCO/ALECSO organized a subregional workshop on Enhancing Capacity-building for the Conservation of Biodiversity using Man and the Biosphere (MAB) concept and sites, from 5 to 9 September 1999 in Agadir, Morocco.	
• Staff travel to attend the workshop	1 183
So far three subregional action programmes have been adopted and are in the process of implementation; the SRAP for eastern Africa will be finalized in the course of the year 2000. Technical support that was provided contributed substantively to the realization of the SRAP objectives: all the SRAPs have identified key priority areas for programme development. Where transboundary issues affecting more than one country are being addressed; the subregional organizations have also been involved in ensuring that the SRAPs complement and support the NAPs	
Subregional level total	**411 894**

3. Facilitation of implementation at the regional level

The Third African Regional Conference (technical meeting and ministerial session) preparatory to COP 3 was held from 27 September to 1 October 1999, in Nairobi, Kenya, hosted and co-financed by UNEP. The meeting was attended by African UNCCD National Focal points, subregional and regional institutions and NGO representatives. It afforded a very important opportunity to participants to consider in detail the national reports to be submitted to COP 3. The ministerial session was attended by African Ministers in charge of UNCCD.	
• Travel of some participants	19 912
• Travel of staff	9 554

	US$
A thematic regional workshop on sustainable agricultural farming systems was held 23-26 March 1999 in Sadore, Niger. The meeting was attended by African specialized institutions, IGO and NGO representatives.	
• Travel of participants	60 696
• Grant to ICRISAT to cover local costs	10 000
• Travel of staff	3 665
A thematic regional workshop on capacity-building and promotion of an enabling environment 20-23 July in Harare, Zimbabwe. The meeting was attended by African specialized institutions, IGO and NGO representatives.	
• Travel of participants	65 382
• Consultancy	5 000
Three pilot country profiles on desertification have been drafted (Kenya, Senegal, Tunisia) and were presented during a side event of the third Conference of the Parties. Many African countries had indicated the need to develop these UNCCD country profiles so as to facilitate the evaluation of the progress made in combating desertification.	
• Consultancy	34 000
Formulation of a regional action programme and launching of the Regional Coordination Unit, hosted by African Development Bank (AfDB) in Abidjan. The Unit has performed a number of tasks and activities, including preparation of regional workshops on thematic networks and national reporting to the COP; participation and support to regional, interregional and international consultations and conferences on implementation of the UNCCD; support for the elaboration of the Regional Action Programme for Africa including the establishment of TPNs.	
• Consultancy and travel	50 149
Results of regional activities include meetings of all seven regional thematic workshops and designation of coordinating institutional focal points by the Africa Regional Conference held in Nairobi, and recommendations to launch six thematic programme networks in the following areas:	
(a) Ecological monitoring, natural resources mapping, remote sensing and early warning systems;	
(b) Promotion of agro-forestry and soil conservation;	
(c) Rational use of rangelands and the development of fodder crops;	
(d) Integrated management of international river, lake and hydro-geological basins;	
(e) Promotion of new and renewable energy sources and technologies;	
(f) Promotion of sustainable agricultural farming systems.	
Regional level total	**258 358**

4. Facilitation of implementation at the interregional level	**US$**
The Second African-Latin American and Caribbean Forum was held 4-8 March 2000 in Timbuktu and Bamako, Mali. Its major objective was to identify activities which could foster interregional cooperation in the implementation of the UNCCD.	
• Preparation of material for the forum	4 475
Interregional level total	**4 475**
Facilitation of implementation in the African region total	**1 130 392**

D. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asian region

1. Facilitation of implementation at the national level

1.1. Awareness-raising

Organization of national awareness seminars was supported in four countries in the Asian region. In some cases, technical advice was also provided.

• Grant to Laos	10 000
• Grant to Sri Lanka	7 400
• Grant to Indonesia	8 000
• Grant to Pakistan	10 000
• Travel of staff	3 154

An awareness seminar organized in Tallinn, Estonia, aimed at providing information on the content of the UNCCD, including the provisions related to the formulation and implementation of action programmes at the national and subregional levels.

• Travel of staff	2 315

These seminars encouraged representatives of all major stakeholders and other concerned parties to discuss problems and to generate ideas as to possible solutions to desertification. Staff members participated in the seminars and made presentations on the Convention, obligations of Parties to the Convention, and the development of national action programmes. The results of these seminars include:

(a) Greater national and public awareness of the problem of land degradation;

(b) Greater awareness of the Convention and strengthened ownership of the process;

(c) Establishment and enhancement of work and cooperation relations between various partners at the national level;

(d) Provision of a platform for further action at the national level.

1.2. National Action Programmes	**US$**
Support to the NAP process was provided to several countries in the region for the organization of national workshops and seminars.	
• Grant to Yemen	10 000
• Grant to Tajikistan	34 000
• Grant to Kyrgyzstan	33 000
The support assisted in reinforcing institutional structures within the countries concerned, mainstreaming the NAP process into the overall framework of sustainable development plans, establishing monitoring criteria for desertification and implementation of the Convention, and identifying pilot projects aimed at rehabilitating degraded arable lands. Of the countries assisted, Tajikistan has finalized its NAP document while those of Kyrgyzstan and Yemen are in an advanced state of completion.	
• Travel of staff	1 027
In Myanmar, a seminar on earth observation for tropical ecosystem management was held in October 1999. The seminar aimed at introducing essential elements for efficient land management.	
• Travel of staff	698
National level total	**119 594**
2. Facilitation of implementation at the subregional level	
The Seminar on Combating Desertification and Mitigating the Effects of Drought in Northeast Asia, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, identified the common and urgent concerns of the countries of the subregion relating to desertification and drought and sandstorms. Joint initiatives may be developed as a follow-up in order to promote future activities between the countries concerned.	
• Logistical support	4 000
Subregional level total	**4 000**
3. Facilitation of implementation at the regional Level	
A cluster of meetings was organized in Beijing. It comprised such activities as: (a) an Asian focal point meeting; (b) the TPN1 launching meeting; and (c) an Afro-Asian workshop on early warning systems.	
A consultant assisted in the preparation of the documentation for the TPN1.	
• Grant to China for local costs	25 000
• Consultancy and travel	11 608
• Travel of 39 participants to the Beijing meetings	90 668
• Travel of staff	3 860
• Translation and interpretation; and preparation of workshop reports	7 000

	US$
The regional focal point meeting achieved a consensus on national reporting. The TPN1 network on monitoring and assessment was the first UNCCD regional network to be launched. The Afro-Asian workshop on early warning system decided upon a series of recommendations for actions to promote the use of early warning systems in desertification control. This meeting facilitated also interregional cooperation as African experts were invited to take part in the TPN1 meeting.	
The preparation of the second TPN on Agroforestry and Soil Conservation was initiated in 1999. Support was provided to India for the preparation of background and supporting documents for the TPN 2, to facilitate its launching in March 2000.	
• Grant to India	18 000
The programme also managed activities pertaining to the preparation of a new implementation Annex for Central and Eastern Europe.	
Regional level total	**156 136**

4. Facilitation of implementation at the interregional level

A meeting with OSCAL (DESA), IFAD and the UNCCD was organized in New York on follow-up activities to the Second Forum on Asia-Africa cooperation. The objective of the meeting was to help in the implementation of decisions taken at the Second Forum as well as to start the preparations for the third Forum subject to the identification of funding.	
• Travel of staff	3 283
Interregional level total	**3 283**

5. Facilitation of implementation at the global level

A preparatory meeting was organized in Rome for the second Forum of Mayors. The meeting facilitated final decisions with respect to the holding of the Mayors Forum that took place in Bonn in June 1999, successfully gathering 300 participants on the common concerns of the UNCCD and local Agenda 21.	
• Travel of staff	1 591
Global level total	**1 591**
Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Asian region total	**284 604**

E. Facilitation of implementation and coordination in the Latin American and Caribbean region

1. Facilitation of implementation at the national level

1.1. Awareness-raising

The Latin American and the Caribbean region was assisted in the organization of national awareness seminars in Barbados, Dominica and Jamaica. A national awareness seminar scheduled for Jamaica had to be postponed due to weather conditions and was held early in

2000. In addition, a seminar was also convened in Costa Rica with a grant obligated in the previous year. **US$**

- Grant to Barbados 8 000
- Grant to Dominica 8 000
- Grant to Jamaica 8 000

These seminars encouraged representatives of all major stakeholders and other concerned parties to discuss the problems and to generate ideas as to the possible solutions. Staff members participated in the seminars and made presentations on the Convention, including on issues related to the development of national action programmes.

- Travel of staff 14 077

The results from the these activities include:

(a) Greater awareness of the Convention and its possibilities in helping to solve the problem;

(b) Establishment and enhancement of work and cooperation relations between various parties at the national level;

(c) Provision of a platform for further action at the national level.

1.2. Awareness-raising

The above-mentioned national awareness seminars had positive effects in other areas as well, in particular on capacity-building. They facilitated the establishment of specific bodies to deal with the problem of land degradation where these did not exist, and where they existed, the seminars provided an opportunity for the revitalization and even expansion of these mechanisms.

These seminars facilitated also the identification of trained personnel and other human resources which exist in the countries concerned, but which were not previously mobilized to assist in finding solutions to the land-degradation problem.

Support was given to Haiti for its national coordinating unit from funds obligated for this purpose the previous year.

1.3. National Action Plans

As a follow-up to the national awareness seminars, Barbados and Dominica began the process of the development of action programmes to deal with the problems of land degradation.

National level total **38 077**

2. Facilitation of implementation at the subregional level

Assistance was provided to the Gran Chaco subregional project. This support allowed the countries involved in the project, namely Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay, to work on the development of a comprehensive subregional action plan involving all interested parties.

- Grant to the Gran Chaco Project 57 600

	US$
The programme entailed the hosting of a series of workshops involving all interested parties, and the drawing-up of concrete plans to ensure the sustainable development of the subregion. The funds were mainly used for travel of participants.	
Subregional level total	**57 600**

3. Facilitation of implementation at the regional level

3.1. Fifth Regional Meeting

The secretariat assisted in the organization of the Fifth Regional Meeting held in Lima, Peru, in August 1999. At this meeting a number of important issues regarding implementation in the region were dealt with including:

(a) Review of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan;

(b) Exchange on the development of national action programmes;

(c) Preparation and presentation of national reports by countries of the region to the Fourth Session of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Discussion of main issues of the Third Session of the COP;

(e) Implementation of specific projects.

The Fifth Regional Meeting was attended by 52 government representatives from 19 countries and 23 representatives of 8 international, subregional and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and representatives of other sectors.

• Travel of participants	145 820
• Preparation of documents	15 000

3.2. Regional Coordination Unit

The Regional Coordination Unit was established by the Regional Meeting in 1997 for assisting in the coordination of activities and providing technical assistance at the national level where possible.

• Grant to UNEP, Mexico, as host of the RCU	24 000

The Regional Coordination Unit assisted in the implementation process in various ways including:

(a) Development of an administration plan for the DESELAC network;

(b) Publication of a regional information bulletin;

(c) Development of a work programme and technical support for the second national meeting of the Mexican Network of Efforts against Desertification and Degradation of Natural Resources, RIOD-MEX (Mexico City, 9-10 December 1999);

(d) Technical assistance to the Governments of Brazil, Chile and Mexico in the development of a standard methodology for quantifying key indicators of plant and animal biodiversity;

(e) Technical assistance to the Governments of Central America in the development and implementation of a project related to the management and sustainable development of priority watersheds including prevention of land degradation; **US$**

(f) Technical assistance for the implementation of a programme for sustainable development of the Gran Chaco Americano;

(g) Technical assistance to the Fifth Regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru, August 1999).

3.3. Regional Information System on Desertification and Drought

The Regional Information System on Desertification and Drought (DESELAC) is a major component of the Regional Action Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. It allows *inter alia* for a quick, cheap and easy way of sharing information among member countries.

- Grant to UNEP, Mexico as host of the RCU 20 000

The assistance permitted among other things:

(a) The purchase of computer equipment necessary for making the system operational out of the office of the Regional Coordination Unit in Mexico;

(b) The development of national plans for inclusion in the network;

(c) Development of a long-term strategy for the network;

(d) Training of personnel to work on the network design and development of the DESELAC Web page.

Regional level total 204 820

4. Facilitation of Implementation at the global level

A consultant was recruited for a production of a draft declaration for the Round Table for Parliamentarians, held during COP 3. The declaration was adopted in Recife and is aimed at furthering implementation of the Convention.

- Consultancy and travel 6 748

Global level total 6 748

Facilitation of and implementation in the Latin American and Carribean region total 307 245

F. Facilitation of implementation in the Northern Mediterranean region and other countries

1. Facilitation of implementation at the national level

Preparations for the National Action Programme were supported in number of countries in consultations with the Government representatives, the private and the academic sectors and the secretariat.

- Travel of staff 1 884

2. Facilitation of implementation at the regional level **US$**

A technical workshop of focal points and experts in the Northern Mediterranean region was arranged in September 1999 in Rome. The workshop prepared a first draft of Terms of Reference to serve as a basis for the elaboration of the Regional Action Programme.

- Travel of staff 747

3. Facilitation of implementation at the global level

The Second World Forum of Mayors on Cities and Desertification was organized in June 1999 in Bonn. The Forum gathered numerous local level leaders from around the world providing a good opportunity for awareness-raising on desertification and for the exchange of information on methods and practices for sustainable land management. The Forum produced a document on cities and desertification.

- Travel of an expert 1 272

Facilitation of implementation in the Northern Mediterranean region and other countries total **3 903**

Facilitation of implementation and coordination, Grand total **1 726 144**

G. External relations and public information

1. Coordination with non-governmental organizations

The International NGO network on desertification and drought (RIOD) held its first global general meeting in August 1999 in Dakar, Senegal. The Environnement et Developpement du Tiers-Monde (ENDA TM) was provided with financial support to be used mainly for the travel of participants. The meeting provided a useful forum for the exchange of information from various regions and emphasized the need for the network to further strengthen its links at the national level.

- Grant to ENDA TM 30 000

Before the third session of the Conference of the Parties the secretariat facilitated an NGO preparatory workshop. Assistance for the logistics and coordination of the workshop as well as for the travel of participants was provided to a Brazilian non-governmental organization. In the workshop non-governmental representatives coordinated their input and prepared for the two half-day dialogue sessions held within the official work programme of the COP.

- Grant to Esquel Foundation Group 20 000

An NGO subregional meeting for the North African subregion was held in February, 1999 in Algeria. The meeting provided a very good opportunity for North African NGOs to raise awareness on the Convention process, exchange views, and coordinate their activities.

- Grant to AREA-ED, Algeria 30 000

	US$
An NGO workshop was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on poverty, gender and desertification. The meeting highlighted the importance of enhancing the role of women in the UNCCD process.	
• Grant to Los Algarrobos of Argentina	13 000
Several Central Asian NGOs in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Turkmenistan were supported in order to strengthen their institutional capacity. The support enabled the NGOs to steadily build the foundation for a broader awareness of the UNCCD process, as well as encouraging networking and the exchange of information. It also assisted non-governmental organizations in targeting their input into the NAP process, and at the same time encouraged the use of successful methods in combating land degradation.	
• Grant to NGO Alma Ata, Kazakhstan	14 000
• Grant to Aleyne Kyrgyzstan	10 000
• Grant to IEAW of Orient, Kazakhstan	9 500
• Grant to NGO Socium, Kyrgyzstan	10 000
• Grant to Ecological Club, Turkmenistan	10 000
• Grant to Development and Environment Center, Mongolia	10 000
Support was provided to facilitate the participation of 27 representatives from the non-governmental community to attend the third session of the Conference of the Parties. In addition, each sponsored participant was also assisted to attend the pre-Conference NGO preparatory workshop.	
• Participation of NGOs to COP 3	143 238
The secretariat also facilitated the participation of NGO representatives in numerous regional and subregional intergovernmental meetings including:	
• The Asia-Africa workshop on early warning systems held in Beijing, China, in July 1999; • The Second Asian Meeting of UNCCD focal points and the launching of the Asian regional network on desertification monitoring and assessment, Beijing, China, July 1999; • The fifth Latin American regional meeting held in Lima, Peru, August 1999.	
In COP 3 as well as in other meetings the NGO representatives have effectively contributed to raising awareness of the problems of local communities and approaches related to desertification and land degradation. As distributors of the information delivered in the meetings, they also have a crucial role in promoting grassroot involvement and application of best practices in the implementation of the Convention.	
Support to NGO activities total	**299 738**
2. Public information	
• Reprinting and binding the UNCCD information kits	38 384
• Translation of the information kits	10 588

	US$
In COP 3 the participants received a memorabilia bag, which was manufactured in collaboration with a Brazilian women's cooperative and a Spanish fair trade group. Sets of five greeting cards, designed by comic artists, and UNCCD pins were distributed to COP participants as well.	
• 3,000 bags, 3,000 card sets, 4,000 pins	19 005
The public information activities have promoted access by the public to relevant information on the Convention. The material has served educational and public awareness and promoted and facilitated intersectorial and interregional dialogue as well as raised awareness of the problem of desertification, of its global character, and its interrelations with other social and environmental issues, in particular with biodiversity and climate change.	
Public information activities total	**67 977**
External relations and public information total	**367 715**

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